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Amherst, MA 01002

February 3, 2001

9744 '01 FEB -6 19:57

U.S. Food and Drug Administration  
Dockets Management Branch  
5630 Fishers Land, Room 1061  
Rockville, Maryland 20852

Dear Sir or Madam:

I am writing to urge the Food and Drug Administration to grant petition 98P-0151/CP1 to prohibit the slaughter of downed animals. Allowing their slaughter is a threat to human health and is not an economic necessity. Industry experts have estimated that 90% of downed animal can be prevented from ending up in this situation with better care and handling. Unfortunately, humane treatment of animals has never been a strength of the meat industry. In these days of worry about Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy and Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease, it seems foolish to continue to allow the market to use these animals. Please grant petition 98P-0151/CP1 both in the interests of human safety and decent treatment of animals.

Thank you,

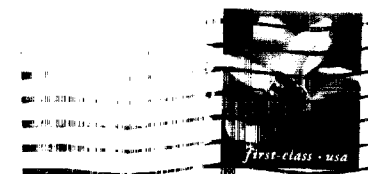


Sheila J. Seaman

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